

REMARKS:

In the Office Action dated January 4, 2007, claims 40-45, 47 and 48, in the above-identified U.S. patent application were rejected. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 40-45 and 47-48 remain in this application and claims 1-39, and 46 have been canceled.

Claims 40-43, 45, 47 and 48 were rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as lacking an adequate written description regarding "G protein mediated extracellular signal transduction pathway". The claims have been amended to indicate that the present invention "modulates growth factor receptor activation by modulating G-protein mediated signal transduction". In view of this amendment, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn. Regarding the language "a compound which directly acts on a growth factor precursor", this language is supported by the disclosure on page 3, line 15). This disclosure shows a specific compound which directly binds to a growth factor precursor. In view of the above amendments, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 40-45, 47 and 48 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. As discussed above, the claims have been amended to indicate that the present invention "modulates growth factor receptor activation by modulating G-protein mediated signal transduction". In view of these amendments, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 USC §102 (a) as anticipated by Dong. Claims 44 and 45 have been amended to indicate that the cells are cancer cells selected from the group consisting of pancreatic, prostate, gastric, breast, thyroid, pituitary, adrenal and ovarian tumor cells. This amendment is supported by the disclosure on page 3, lines 23-27 of the present application. Dong does not suggest or disclose the use of cancer cells. Stampfer et al., clarifies that the HMEC184 cells used in Dong are not cancer cells (page 4499, second paragraph, "...HMEC strains 184 and 161 were obtained from reduction mammoplasty tissue..."). The HCA-7 and HCT-116 cells used by Dong are colon cells (page 6237, left col., second paragraph) which are not cancer cells. In view of these amendments, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 40-45 and 47-48 are now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the telephone number below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fee for such an extension together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

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